

Itako Events Guide

There are special seasonal events in Itako.

Suigo Itako Iris Festival (Ayame Matsuri)



Time
Late May to Late June

Place
Suigo-Itako Iris (Ayame) Garden **G-3**

This famous flower festival boasts of 500 different types of irises from 1 million bulbs, and attracts over 800,000 visitors annually. Enjoy the Japanese riverside attractions such as "The Marital Sending of the Itako Ayame Bride" which re-creates the scene of an old-time wedding ceremony in the area.

Cherry Blossom Festival at Gongen-yama Park



Time
Early April

Place
Gongen-yama Park **D-1**

You can see 250 blossoming cherry trees including Somei Yoshino and Yae Zakura (double layer cherry blossom) here. The park is a famous scenic viewpoint. Katsushika Hokusai, an Edo era ukiyo-e artist, made woodblock prints of Mount Fuji viewed from this spot. These can be seen in the series, "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji".

Buddhist Lantern Festival



Time
The last day of the year

Place
Cho-on-ji Temple **D-3**

In the last day of the year, 10,000 candles light up the ground of this East Kanto branch temple of Yakushi-ji Temple, a world heritage. The golden Deity of Mercy sitting in the richly colored temple gazes down on you. It's also performed in mid-August every year.

Hydrangea Field



Time
Mid-June to Mid-July

Place
Nihonmatsu-ji Temple

At Nihonmatsuji Temple, established in 824 AD, over 10,000 hydrangea flowers of 70 different species radiantly blossom between mid-June to mid-July.

Parade of Floats



Time
The first Friday, Saturday and Sunday of August

Place
Itako urban area

At this 800-year old festival, 14 floats of 4-plus-meters high are enthusiastically pulled by many people. These floats, decorated with dolls of historical characters, are admired as mobile artistic handicrafts.

Moon Festival



Time
Mid-October

Place
Suigo-Itako Iris (Ayame) Garden **G-3**

At the venue lit up by approximately 2,000 lights, the traditional songs, musical accompaniments (hayashi) and other performances are performed on this stage.



Lion Dance of Uwado (Shishi-mai)



Time
November 23

Place
Kunigami Shrine **C-2**

Performers in the costumes of three "shishi" (lion) -- male, female and the middle one -- perform each lion's individual dance in hope of bumper harvest. The Lion Dance of Uwado dates back to 1395 AD and is designated by Ibaraki prefecture as one of its intangible folklore cultural assets.

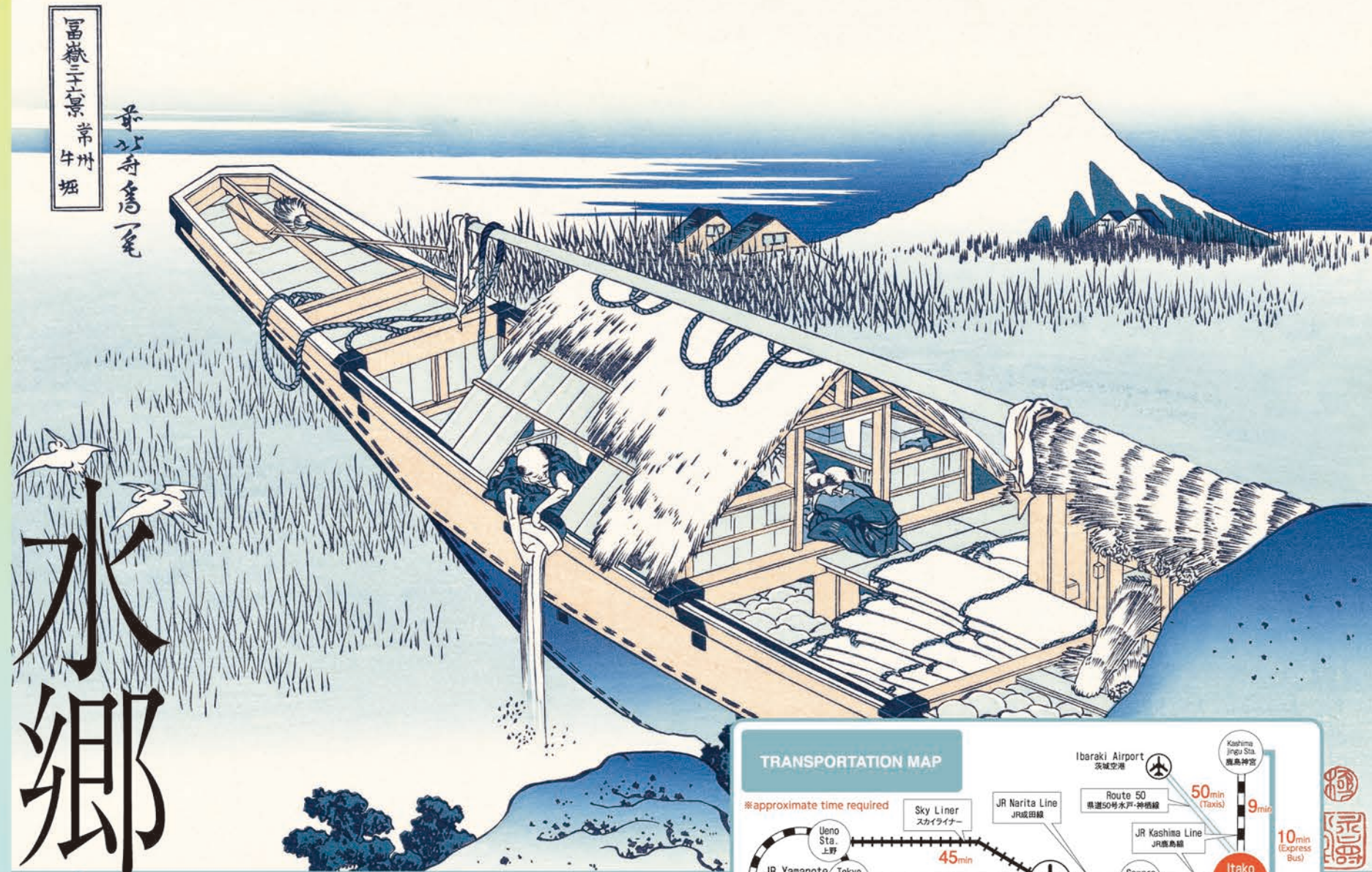
Cosmos Field



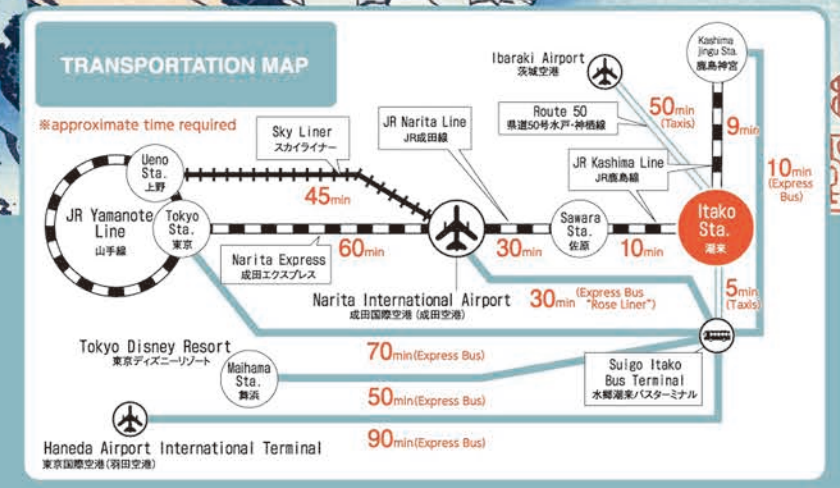
Time
Late September to Early October

Place
Cosmos Field **C-2**

10 million cosmoses bloom profusely over the approximately 6 hectares of field along the Kitatone River. You can pick cosmoses during a designated period of time.



About Itako City
Only a 30 minutes car ride from Narita International Airport, Itako is a riverside sight-seeing destination full of atmosphere and heartwarming welcome.



Access Information	
Closest Expressway - Higashi-Kanto Expressway, Itako Interchange	
Closest Train Station - Itako Station	
Closest Bus Stop - Suigo-Itako / Itako Station	
Express Bus	
From Narita Airport	From Tokyo Station
[Ibaraki Kotsu] (appx 30min) To Hitachi Station via Mito Station and Hitachinaka Exit at Suigo-Itako Bus Terminal [Chiba Kotsu] "Rose Liner" service connects Narita Airport to Hitachi/Katsuda/Mito/Hokota	[Kanto Tetsudo Bus/ JR Bus/ Keisei Bus] (appx 70min) To Kashima Jingu Exit at Suigo-Itako Bus Terminal [Kanto Tetsudo Bus/ JR Bus] To Hasaki Exit at Suigo-Itako Bus Terminal [Kanto Tetsudo Bus] To Hokota Exit at Itako Station
From Haneda Airport International Terminal	From Tokyo Disney Resort
[Kanto Tetsudo Bus/ Keihin Kyuko Bus] (appx 90min) To Kashima Jingu Exit at Suigo-Itako Bus Terminal	[Kanto Tetsudo Bus] (appx 50min) To Kashima Jingu Exit at Suigo-Itako Bus Terminal

Picture: "Joshu Ushibori" by Katsushika Hokusai